



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 7:00 PM

Via Microsoft Teams

THE MEETING CAN BE ACCESSED AT <http://www.tinyurl.com/LVPC2025> OR VIA PHONE
610-477-5793 Conf ID: 651 626 091#.

AGENDA

Roll Call

Courtesy of Floor

Chairman's Report

1. Welcome New Commissioner
 - a. Crystal Rose, Easton City Councilmember
2. Staff Introduction
 - a. Minsoo Park, Economist

Minutes

1. *ACTION ITEM*: Minutes and Review of Roll Call Actions of the January 23, 2025, Commission Meeting (JD)

Annual Report

1. *PRESENTATION ITEM*: Annual Report

Comprehensive Planning Committee:

1. *ACTION ITEM*: Salisbury Township – Land Use of Regional Significance – Monsignor John P. Murphy Education Center (JD)
2. *PRESENTATION ITEM*: Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy (JS, JD)
3. *ACTION ITEM*: Summary Sheet (SM)

Environment Committee:

1. *ACTION ITEM*: Summary Sheet (SR)

Transportation Committee:

1. *ACTION ITEM*: Palmer Township 2025 Active Transportation Plan

New Business:

1. *COMMITTEE BUSINESS*:

- a. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Statement of Financial Interests Form (JD)
- b. *INFORMATION ITEM*: March In-Person Meeting Reminder (JD)
 - i. LVPC Office, 615 Waterfront Drive, Suite 201, Allentown, PA, 18102
 - ii. March 27, 2025, at 7 PM
 - iii. Second Harvest Food Bank Drive

Monthly Reports:

- 1. *PACKET ITEMS*:
 - a. Monthly Subdivision, Land Development, Stormwater and Municipal Ordinances/Plans Report
 - b. Monthly Traffic Monitoring Report

Executive Director’s Report:

- 1. None

Communications and Engagement

- 1. *PRESENTATION ITEM*: Lehigh Valley Government Academy
 - a. Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI)
 - i. Community Planning: March 5, 12, 19
 - ii. Subdivision and Land Development: May 5, 12, 19
 - iii. Register at www.lvpc.org/lvga
- 2. *PACKET ITEM*: Morning Call Business Cycle Column (MA)
 - a. Published January 19: “Area transportation, housing, climate change plans in progress.”
 - b. lvpc.org; mcall.com
 - c. Next column: March 2
- 3. *PACKET ITEM*: Monthly, Plan Lehigh Valley Talk Show on WDIY, Lehigh Valley Public Radio, 88.1 (MA)
 - a. Air Date: February 3 - “The exciting year ahead”, with Co-hosts LVPC Executive Director Becky Bradley and Managing Editor Matt Assad
 - b. [Lvpc.org](http://lvpc.org); wdiy.org/show/plan-lehigh-valley
 - c. Next show – 6:30 pm, March 3
- 4. *PACKET ITEM*: Lehigh Valley Government Academy
 - a. Local Technical Assistance Program Classes
 - i. March 5: Public Works Safety, 8 am to Noon – In Person
 - ii. March 12: Stop Sign and Intersection Traffic Control, 8 am to Noon – Virtual
 - iii. March 19: Pavement Markings, 8 am to Noon – Virtual
 - iv. April 2: Temporary Traffic Control (Work Zones) – In Person
 - o In Person Classes will be held at the LVPC Conference Center, 615 Waterfront Drive, Suite 201, Allentown PA 18102
 - o Register at www.gis.penndot.gov/LTAP/ or by contacting Hannah Milagio at hmilagio@lvpc.org 610-264-4544

Next Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Meeting:

Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 7:00 pm

The LVPC/LVTS website, www.lvpc.org, may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in non-English languages and alternative formats, if requested.



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LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION Minutes from Thursday, January 23, 2025, Virtual Meeting

The LVPC held a public meeting on Thursday, January 23, 2025. The meeting was advertised in the Lehigh Valley Press on January 8th, 2025.

LVPC Chair Dr. Chris Amato chaired the meeting.

Mr. Joey Dotta took Roll Call.

Members in Attendance:

Lehigh County

Ron Beitler, Michael Drabenstott, Bob Elbich, Sunny Ghai, Philip Ginder, Steve Glickman, Jennifer Gomez, Kent Herman, John Inglis, Diane Kelly, Dennis Klusaritz, Richard Molchany, Christina Morgan, Santo Napoli, Owen O'Neil and Stephen Repasch.

Northampton County

Christopher Amato, Andrew Elliott, Charles Elliott, John Gallagher, Judith Haldeman, Darlene Heller, Carl Manges, John McGorry, Steve Melnick, Armando Moritz-Chapelliquen and Tina Smith.

Members Absent:

Lehigh County

Phillips Armstrong, Percy Dougherty, Kevin Schmidt and Matthew Tuerk.

Northampton County

Jessica Cope, Ken Kraft, Rachel Leon, Lamont McClure, Scott Minnich, Edward Nelson, Salvatore Panto, Jr., J. William Reynolds, Grace Crampsie Smith and Jean Versteeg.

Staff Present: Joey Dotta, Jill Seitz, Scott Greenly, Becky Bradley, Corinne Ruggiero, Subham Kharel, Faria Army, Christian Martinez, Susan Myerov, Brian Hite and Matt Assad

Public Present:

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Amato introduced two new members of the LVPC staff, Dr. Subham Kharel and Faria Army. Both gave a brief overview of their background and LVPC projects they are looking forward to contributing to in their role.

Chair Amato recognized the individuals who completed the required hours of training to receive the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) award for Certified Citizen Planner. Three individuals were recognized for their achievements in earning the Outstanding Planning Education Achievement Award.

Chair Amato honored long-time City of Bethlehem Planning Director and LVPC Commissioner Darlene Heller, whose retirement was scheduled for January 31. Several Commissioners spoke kind words and congratulated Ms. Heller on her regional impact.

MINUTES

Chair Amato stated that the minutes of the Thursday, December 19, 2024, LVPC meeting are in the meeting packet. Chair Amato asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Glickman made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Elbich seconded the motion.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none. The motion passed. Commissioners Kelly, Klusaritz and Charles Elliott abstained.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

ACTION ITEM: Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy

Ms. Seitz shared details about the upcoming Lehigh Valley Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy that will be released. The event will be a part of a three-part series with key stakeholders to address housing shortages across the Lehigh Valley.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. Commissioner Melnick asked about the effects on the local market, and it was discussed how the strategy can be used by municipalities as an informational tool.

ACTION ITEM: Comprehensive Planning Committee Summary Sheet

Comprehensive Planning Committee Chair Melnick briefed the Commission on the Comprehensive Committee Summary Sheet that featured four zoning ordinance and map amendments reviews. There were zoning map amendments in Bethlehem and Hanover Townships, a zoning ordinance amendment in Whitehall Township and a zoning ordinance and map update in Alburis Borough.

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the summary sheet. Commissioner Morgan made the motion, and Commissioner Repasch seconded the motion. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Chair Amato called for affirmative votes to accept the staff comments. The motion passed.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

INFORMATION ITEM: Greater Lehigh Valley Regional Climate Action Overview

Ms. Myerov gave a brief synopsis of the ongoing Greater Lehigh Valley Regional Climate Action Plan. The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG), a program funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), features four main parts. The third component of the series is in the works currently. The purpose of the plans and featured findings were shared.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There was brief discussion about the federal funding freeze and it was emphasized that the LVPC would monitor the situation and report if anything drastically changes with the 2025 workplan.

ACTION ITEM: Environment Committee Summary Sheet

Commissioner Repasch briefed the Commission on Environment Committee's business that included two Delaware River Basin Commission items involving wastewater treatment plant and discharge renewals in Lehigh Township and North Whitehall Township. There was one Agricultural Security Addition reviewed for Lower Nazareth Township.

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the summary sheet. Commissioner Molchany made the motion, and Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Chair Amato called for affirmative votes to accept the staff comments. The motion passed. Commissioner Klusaritz abstained from the item for North Whitehall Township.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Transportation Committee Chair Herman briefed that the Transportation Committee was cancelled in January but encourages increased attendance going forward. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

OLD BUSINESS:

PRESENTATION ITEM: Monthly Subdivision, Land Development, Stormwater and Municipal Ordinances/Plans Report

Mr. Dotta reviewed development review data for the month of December. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

PRESENTATION ITEM: 4th Quarter Traffic Monitoring Report

Mr. Hite reviewed the traffic count numbers tabulated by the LVPC during the fourth quarter of 2024. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

PACKET ITEM: Monthly Traffic Monitoring Report

Chair Amato notified the Commission that the monthly traffic monitoring report is in their packets. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

NEW BUSINESS:

PRESENTATION ITEM: Training - The Role of LVPC Commissioners

Ms. Bradley gave an overview of the LVPC's functions and legal authority under the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code. Ms. Seitz gave information about the Community Planning team's responsibility and objectives during the land development review process. Mr. Dotta briefed the Commission on their roles relating to the letters and reiterated the importance of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. Commissioner Molchany asked for the Commission to be sent a copy of the training slides and LVPC staff confirmed it would be done.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND MANAGING EDITOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Bradley and Mr. Assad gave an overview of the latest Morning Call column which talked about the Regional Watershed Management Plan, the Greater Lehigh Valley Regional Climate Action Plan, a focus on the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) Bus Rapid Transit, and the previously presented on Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Chair Amato notified the Commission that items for communications and public engagement are featured in the meeting packet. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Amato stated that the next LVPC meeting will be on Thursday, February 27 at 7 pm. Chair Amato then asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Molchany made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:
Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director and Joey Dotta, Regional Planner



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Planning for the Future of Lehigh and Northampton Counties at 615 Waterfront Drive, Suite 201, Allentown, PA 18102 ■ (610) 264-4544 ■ lvpc@lvpc.org ■ www.lvpc.org

February xx, 2025

Kerry Rabold, Planning Officer
Salisbury Township
2900 South Pike Avenue
Allentown, PA 18103

**Re: Msgr. John P. Murphy Education Center – Land Use of Regional Significance
Salisbury Township
Lehigh County**

Dear Ms. Rabold:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) will consider the subject application at its Comprehensive Planning Committee and Full Commission meetings, pursuant to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). The meetings occur on:

- LVPC Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting
 - February 25, 2025, at 12:00 PM
 - <https://lvpc.org/lvpc-meetings>
- LVPC Full Commission Meeting
 - February 27, 2025, at 7:00 PM
 - <https://lvpc.org/lvpc-meetings>

The application is considered a Land Use of Regional Significance under *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* in the Educational Facilities category. The project proposes construction of a 25,800 square-foot childcare center at 1031 Flexer Avenue (Parcel Identification Number 548690615921).

Background

According to Salisbury Township’s Zoning Map, the project site is Medium Low Density Residential District (R-3) and the proposed use an early learning center and gymnasium. Adjacent uses feature the Saint Thomas More Church campus and Preschool, Louise Lane Park, sports club and multiple single-family detached properties. There is an existing chapel with parking that is to remain and be redeveloped.



Figure 1 Aerial of project area

Site Suitability

The proposal supports a core strategy of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* to increase density in urban areas using infill development (Density Special Section, page 71). According to the General Land Use in *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, this parcel is in a Development area and has the factors needed to support growth, such as sewer and transportation infrastructure capacity and contiguity to the existing Saint Thomas More Preschool and Church. The proposal serves to 'expand access to education and job training' (of Policy 4.1) which serves to stimulate investment in local institutions and increase social opportunities (of Policy 4.2).

Transportation

Reuse in an urban area located in centers and along corridors supports Policy 1.1 and Policy 4.3 of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* for increasing educational opportunities. The Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) provides fixed-route public transportation near the project site, with two northbound and southbound bus stop pairings on Flexer Avenue at the intersections of Debbie Lane and Lindberg Avenue, both approximately within 500 feet of the main entrance to the project site (bus stop ID 4900 and 4849). The proposal includes a new crosswalk and expands the existing pedestrian network to enhance transit connections with nearby infrastructure (of Policy 2.3). Another crosswalk is recommended at the proposed northern access to further incorporate universal design and provide safe routes to school (of Policy 5.2). There is an opportunity to extend the proposed sidewalk along Flexer Avenue to the intersection with Debbie Lane to further promote safe and secure community design (Policy 5.1). A potential location for the extension is shown in yellow below. Coordination with the Township is encouraged for a path to connect to the nearby neighborhood through Louise Lane Park. Signage should specify a drop-off area near the northern part of the parking area to reduce car queueing and improve traffic circulation (of Policy 2.2).

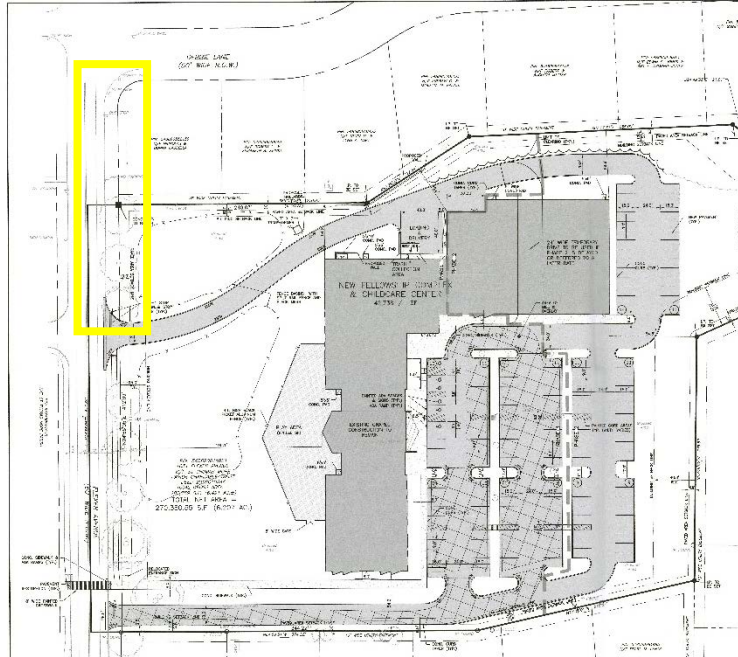


Figure 2 Location of sidewalk extension

Sustainability

The LVPC recommends that educational institutions incorporate environmentally sensitive building and landscape design, such as green roofs or solar panels. This would increase the cost-effectiveness of building operation and further academic endeavors related to these technologies, while enhancing the campus setting, demonstrating environmental leadership within the region, and ‘reducing climate change impacts through mitigation and adaption’ (of Policy 3.4).

The City of Allentown, Upper Saucon Township, Fountain Hill Borough and Emmaus Borough are being included in this review letter to ‘coordinate land use decisions across municipal boundaries’ (of Policy 1.4).

Municipalities, when considering subdivision/land developments, should reasonably attempt to be consistent with *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, as required by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) [Article 1§105, Article III§303, §304 & §306(a), Article VI§603(j)]. The LVPC review does not include an in-depth examination of plans relative to subdivision design standards or ordinance requirements since these items are covered in the municipal review.

Sincerely,

Joseph Dotta
Regional Planner



Mary Grace Collins
Community Fellow

cc: Amanda Salovay, Applicant; Mark J. Buchvalt, Project Engineer/Surveyor; Stan Wojciechowski, Township Engineer; Jennifer Gomez, City of Allentown Planning Director; Thomas Beil, Upper Saucon Township Manager; Shane Pepe, Emmaus Borough Manager; Amy Burkhart, Fountain Hill Borough Manager.

Project Review Summary Sheet

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Date: February 2025

Project	Municipality	Brief Statement of Purpose	LVPC Comment
Zoning Ordinance Update	Emmaus Borough	The application proposes a comprehensive update to the Borough of Emmaus Zoning Ordinance. The purpose, as specified in Section 27-102, is to “guide future growth and development by regulating land uses within the Borough of Emmaus for the improvement of the health, safety, comfort, morals, and general welfare of its citizens.”	The Borough’s updated Zoning Code is clear, concise, and supports current-day best practices for regulating land development. The proposed requirements support the community vision outlined within both the Southwest Lehigh Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan and FutureLV: The Regional Plan.
Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Update	Emmaus Borough	The application proposes a comprehensive update to Chapter 22 of the Borough of Emmaus municipal code pertaining to Subdivision and Land Development. The purpose of the proposed Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO), as specified in Section 22-102, includes ensuring the overall health, safety and welfare of Borough residents by enabling orderly and efficient development.	The Borough’s updated SALDO is clear, concise and supports current-day best practices for regulating subdivision and land development. The proposed requirements support the community vision outlined in the Southwest Lehigh Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan and FutureLV: The Regional Plan, and demonstrate an exemplary approach to guiding and managing development utilizing the tools municipalities have available, per the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC).
Zoning Ordinance and Map Amendment	City of Easton	The proposal makes amendments to various sections throughout the City of Easton Zoning Code, and amends the City Zoning Map by expanding the Adaptive Reuse Zoning District and Business Entertainment Zoning District.	This purpose, as well as the proposed ordinance amendments, supports and aligns with numerous goals and policies of <i>FutureLV: The Regional Plan</i> . Overall, the proposed revisions to the general language and definitions modernize the City’s land use regulations, limit redundancy by adding clarity and improve readability.
Zoning Map Update	City of Bethlehem	The application, submitted by a private petitioner, proposes to amend the City of Bethlehem Zoning Map by rezoning a series of parcels from High Density Residential Zoning District (RT) to Central Business District (CB). The parcels are located at 11 and 15 West Garrison Street	The proposal to rezone the subject properties aligns with <i>FutureLV: The Regional Plan</i> by facilitating mixed-use infill opportunities in areas where additional development can be accommodated. The project serves to increase attainable housing opportunities, coordinate investments that support Centers and Corridors, and increase social and economic access to daily needs for all people. The parcels are located adjacent to the existing CB Zoning District, which supports best practices in zoning and land use management.



Project Review Summary Sheet

Environment Committee

Date: February 2025

Project	Municipality	Brief Statement of Purpose	LVPC Comment
Proposed Additions to Lower Nazareth Township's Agricultural Security Area	Lower Nazareth Township	Application by landowner to add a parcel to the Township's Agricultural Security Area. The parcel is 31 acres and borders 287 acres of additional Agricultural Security Area land.	Parcels are located in high priority farmland preservation area and applications align with <i>FutureLV</i> action to 'expand municipal agricultural security areas' (of Policy 4.4).
Review of amended municipal well permitting ordinance	Upper Mt. Bethel Township	Changes to Well Permitting Ordinance based on September 2024 Comments by LVPC. LVPC's recommended changes to definitions and providing specific well enforcement officer's duties were added to the ordinance language.	The Well Permitting Ordinance amendment helps promote sustainable stewardship of water resources (Policy 3.1) of <i>FutureLV: The Regional Plan</i> and helps protect the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater of Policy 3.2.
PAG-13 - Draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges to small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4)	18 Municipalities in Lehigh and Northampton County with PAG-13 General Permit Coverage	LVPC reviewed and provided comments on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's draft renewal of its PAG-13, NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from small MS4s as part of its public comment period. Major changes include shift of focus from pollutant reduction plans to volume management plans. Goal to manage first inch of stormwater runoff from 88% of impervious cover through use of approved stormwater control measures. Establishes a 50-year time frame for attainment. Provides credits for existing measures, socio-economic and opportunity factors, collaboration and projects located in Environmental Justice Areas.	Draft permit goals and objectives align with <i>FutureLV</i> by <i>protecting the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater and managing the rate, volume, and quality of stormwater runoff (of Policy 3.2), advocating for use of native, climate-adaptive and carbon sequestering landscaping (of Policy 3.4). Credits and incentives reflect consistency with FutureLV by promoting the use of cost-benefit analysis in planning, development and infrastructure decisions and expanding planning and development collaboration among neighboring communities (of Policy 4.6).</i>



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BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

February 7, 2025

Craig Beavers
Deputy Director of Planning
Palmer Township
3 Weller Place
Easton, PA 18045

Re: Palmer Township 2025 Active Transportation Plan: A Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Update – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Review

Mr. Beavers,

The LVPC review of the *2025 Active Transportation Plan: A Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Update* by Palmer Township was completed to provide comments regarding consistency with the goals and policies of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, a bi-county comprehensive and long-range transportation plan for Lehigh and Northampton Counties as well as the goals and policies of *WalkRollLV: Active Transportation*. The LVPC also reviewed any existing Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS), the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Lehigh and Northampton Counties, initiatives and plans to identify any corresponding mobility projects, programs, or policies for the region.

The Palmer Township Active Transportation Plan Update is generally consistent with the goals and associated policies of *FutureLV* as follows:

Goal 1: Efficient and Coordinated Development Pattern

- Policy 1.2: Direct growth by establishing a network of mixed-use centers and mixed-transportation corridors.
 - o Link centers with high-capacity, mixed transportation corridors.
 - o Support pedestrian-scale development.

Goal 2: Connected Mixed-Transportation Region

- Policy 2.1: Develop a mixed-transportation network to support a more compact development pattern, optimize roadway capacity and encourage alternative travel options.
 - o Establish mixed-transportation corridors.
 - o Enhance The Link – the Lehigh Valley multi-use trail network.
 - o Connect regional trails to Centers and Corridors.
 - o Promote funding opportunities for mixed-transportation and recreation facilities.
- Policy 2.2: Provide a safe, well-maintained transportation network to move people and goods efficiently, while capitalizing on existing infrastructure.
 - o Improve efficiency of existing infrastructure.

- Encourage an interconnected street, sidewalk and trail network.

Goal 5: Safe, Healthy, Inclusive and Livable Communities

- Policy 5.2: Increase social and economic access to daily needs for all people.
 - Promote safe routes to schools and playgrounds.
 - Ensure transportation accessibility for all persons.
 - Improve connections between bus stops and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.
- Policy 5.3: Create community spaces that promote physical and mental health.
 - Improve walkability of post-wat centers.
 - Promote street trees and pedestrian scale lighting.
 - Strengthen sidewalk, bike route and trail infrastructure.

Additionally, the update aligns with the following recommendations in *WalkRollLV: The Active Transportation Plan*:

Bicycle Commuting Corridors

- Northampton Street (Greenwood Avenue to Larry Holmes Drive)
 - Project 3 of the Central Palmer study area is the Northampton Street Bike Lane.
 - The corridor ranges from 6,500 to 8,500 AADT, it connects densely populated areas in three separate municipalities and connects the Two Rivers Area Trailway via the Wilson Bike Path.

Recommendations

- Walk/Roll recommends a reconfiguration of the 25th Street Intersections. It is recommended that it be a protected intersection with all right turn lanes removed, or a compact modern roundabout instead of signals.
- Walk/Roll also recommends Separated Bike Lanes from Greenwood Avenue to 25th Street, eliminating the center left-turn lane and provide buffered bike lanes on each side of the street.
 - Parking protected bike lanes are also suggested if there is a legislative change in Pennsylvania allowing them.
- Where Wilson Bike Path crosses Northampton Street on the Palmer/Wilson Border, Walk/Roll suggests upgrades to the crossing with a median refuge island, a raised crossing, and a rectangular rapid flashing beacon to warn drivers of crossing pedestrians.

Finally, the project aligns with the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study's Traffic Safety Plan mitigation strategies as follows:

Bicycle and Pedestrian

- Walkable Neighborhoods:

- Implementation of techniques designed to improve pedestrian movements, including well designed streets and sidewalks, places to walk to, interesting buildings, people, comfort, accessibility, green networks and beauty.
- Alternative Transportation:
 - An alternative method or means of travel other than the private motor vehicle, including walking, cycling, carpooling or mass transit.
- Pedestrian Accommodations:
 - Any series of pedestrian amenities, including but not limited to push buttons, crosswalks, ramps, sidewalks, etc.

The Palmer Township *2025 Active Transportation Plan: A Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan* Update will positively impact the residents of the Palmer Township and thousands of other residents within the Lehigh Valley who travel through this area. The plan suggests critical connections to our commuter trail network for pedestrians and bicyclists. Plans of this kind benefit disadvantaged communities and helps promote equitable access to important destinations for employment, education, retail, and recreation. This plan will help implement many key goals and policies of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, *WalkRollLV: Active Transportation Plan*, the Traffic Safety Plan, and several other critical planning documents.

The LVPC review team supports the township's efforts and is available for any further questions or aspects requested regarding this plan review.

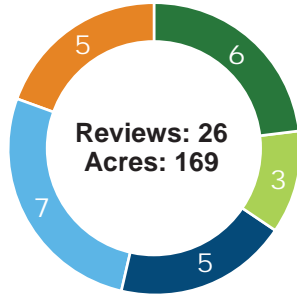
Sincerely,

Evan Gardi

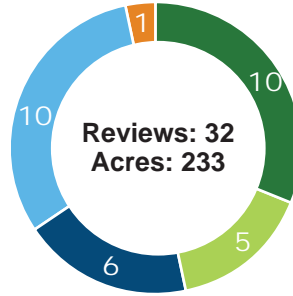
Transportation Planner

Plan Activity

Lehigh County



Northampton County



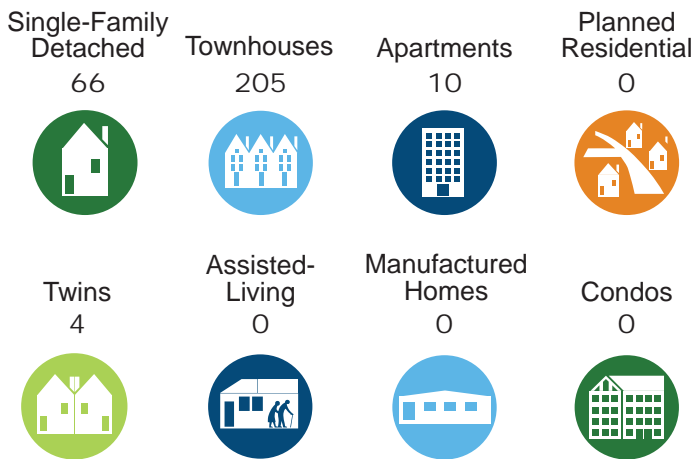
Regional Totals*



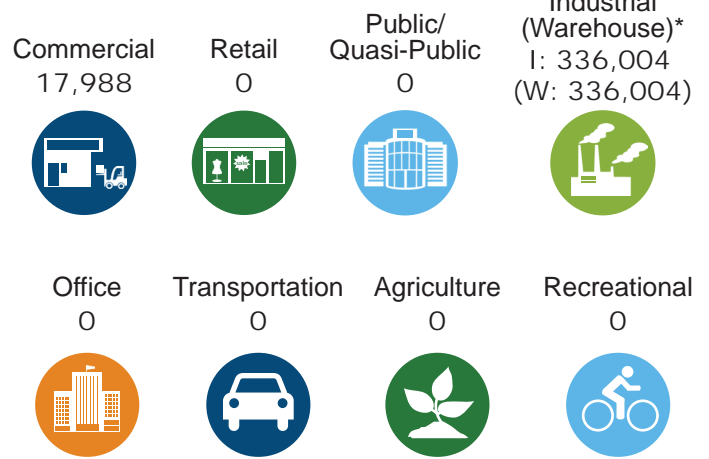
*Includes preliminary and final plans

Types of New Development

Residential: 285 Total Units

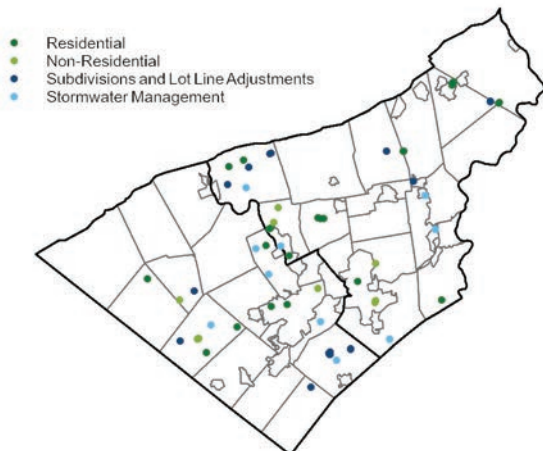


Non-Residential: 353,992 Total Square Feet

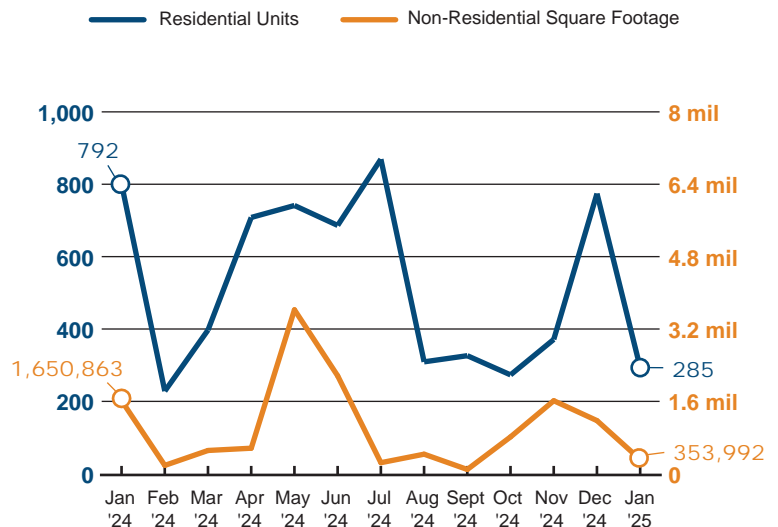


* Warehouse number is a subset of industrial total square footage.

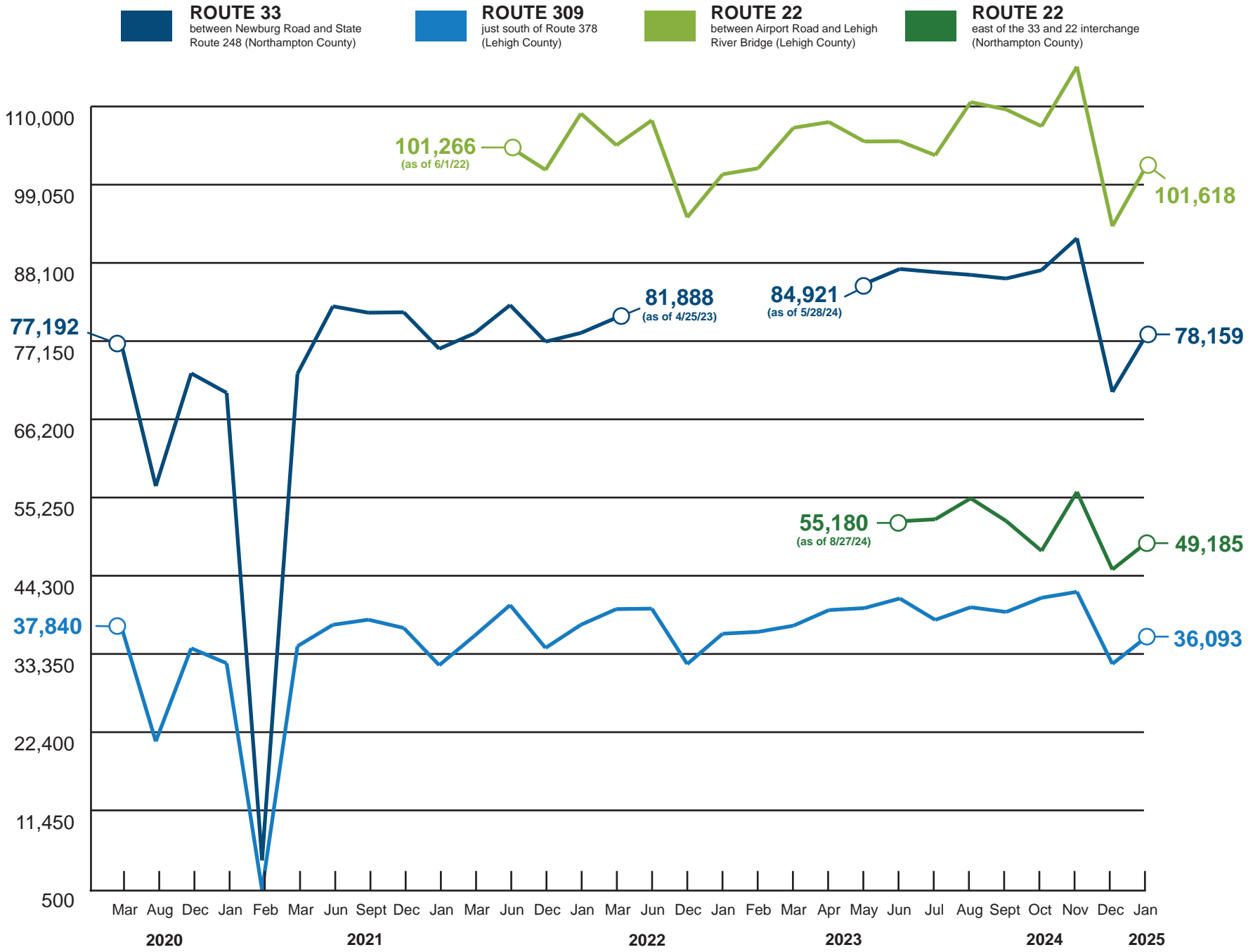
Location of Development



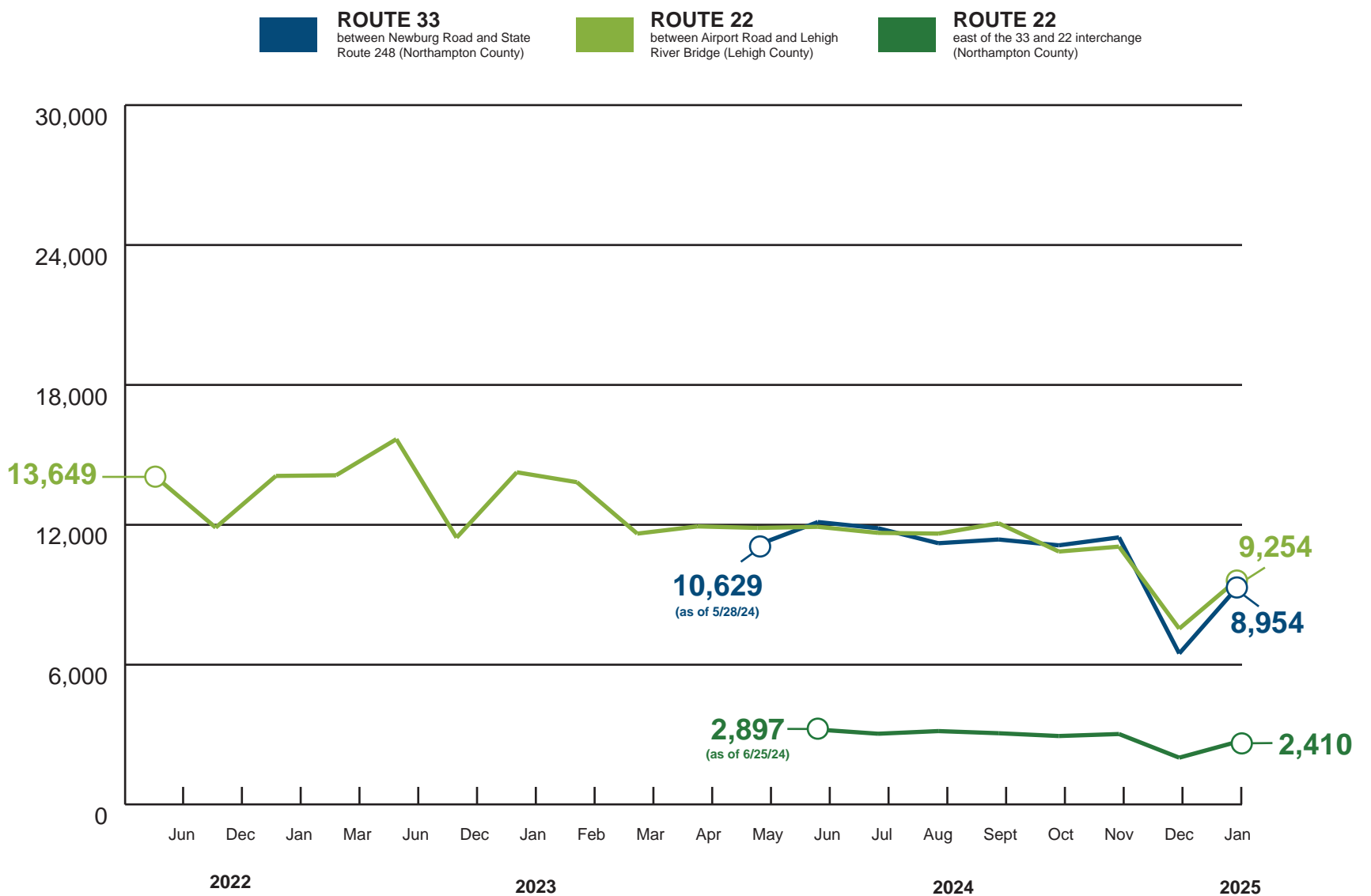
Year to Date (Year to Year)



TOTAL VEHICLE TRAFFIC



TOTAL TRUCK TRAFFIC





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Planning for the Future of Lehigh and Northampton Counties at 961 Marcon Blvd., Ste 310, Allentown, PA 18109 ■ (610) 264-4544 ■ lvpc@lvpc.org ■ www.lvpc.org

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2025
TO: Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
FROM: Matt Assad, Managing Editor
 Brian Hite, AICP, Transportation Planner
 Ben Dinkel, Transportation Planner

REGARDING: Public Engagement, Education and Grants

Public Engagement

The most recent **Plan Lehigh Valley** National Public Radio show, which aired at 6:30 pm, February 3, on WDIY radio 88.1 FM looked ahead to a very busy 2025 year, with at least a dozen major projects on the schedule. Several are transportation-related, including the Route 22 Mobility, Safety and Congestion Plan, Bus Rapid Transit, the Transportation Safety Plan and the Lehigh Valley Trail Gap analysis. The show is available at www.wdiy.org/show/plan-lehigh-valley and www.lvpc.org/news/v. The next Plan Lehigh Valley Radio Show will air March 3, at 6:30 pm.

The latest **Business Cycle Column** ran Sunday, January 19, and it took a very similar look ahead toward the big projects of 2025, but with a focus on the decades-long impact these projects will have on Lehigh Valley life and collaboration that will be needed by agency and municipal partners to be able to tackle them all in the 12-24-month period. That column can be found in your packet, and online at lvpc.org and mcall.com. The next column in the Morning Call will be published March 2.

Educational Opportunities

The Lehigh Valley Government Academy (LVGA) will be providing educational opportunities in partnership with the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs

The following class will be held in person at the LVPC Conference Center, 615 Waterfront Drive, Suite 201, Allentown PA 18102

**Wednesday March 11
 Zoning Officer 101 – 9 am to 3:30 pm**

Everything you need to know as a Zoning Officer! This class is a great start for new Zoning Officers and staff, and an excellent refresher for seasoned Zoning Officers. We will explain the duties of a Zoning Officer, statutory authority, Municipalities Planning Code requirements, as well as a review of the specific job functions of a Zoning Officer, including permits, inspections, Zoning Hearing Board administration, enforcement, building codes, records retention, and Right-to-Know. We will also discuss various lessons learned during COVID, such as electronic submissions and working remotely.

Registration Fee: \$125

CLE: \$60 (in addition to the price of the class)

Register at

https://myaccount.boroughs.org/PSAB_MBR/Events/Event_Display.aspx?WebsiteKey=d1d9839f-5fb9-4baf-a0d9-60f06aca5c03&Eventkey=CLSZO10125

The Lehigh Valley Government Academy (LVGA) will be providing free educational opportunities in partnership with the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP).

The Following LTAP Classes will be held in person at the LVPC Conference Center, 615 Waterfront Drive, Suite 201, Allentown PA 18102

Wednesday March 5

Public Works Safety – 8 am to Noon (sold out)

By popular demand a 2nd class on March 5 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm

This course provides a basic understanding of common safety factors and practices associated with public works road maintenance operations. Specific operations discussed include trench excavation, crack sealing with hot asphalt, mowing and chain saw use, as well as winter maintenance. It provides an overview of why accidents happen and how to protect personnel through the use of personal protective equipment. Workplace awareness is stressed with emphasis on chemical safety, environmental hazards, and vehicle and equipment safety issues. The importance of having a formal safety program in place and how to establish an effective program is discussed.

Wednesday April 2

Temporary Traffic Control (Work Zones) – 8 am to 3 pm

This course will enhance your awareness of the importance of safety for all workers and road users in work zones. It covers basic work zone principles and reviews the different control devices applied in work zones. The course also emphasizes worker safety, including appropriate safety apparel, safe work zone practices, and appropriate work zone set-ups. The participants will be able to: Recognize the importance of temporary traffic control for the safety of the work crew and of the traveling public. • Develop a working knowledge of State and Federal temporary traffic control laws, regulations, and guidelines. • Demonstrate the ability to develop temporary traffic control plan/set-ups in accordance with PennDOT Publication 213 for various local road situations. Intended Audience: Individuals who are performing maintenance, construction, or traffic control on municipal roadways including: public works employees, road crews, roadmasters and street superintendents. Others who would benefit from this course include law enforcement personnel (for enforcement purposes), municipal managers and elected officials (to understand the importance and for budgeting purposes). Engineers are welcome to attend, but the focus is on the non-engineer. Note: This is not a flagger certification workshop.

All LVGA LTAP classes are free and are intended for municipalities, transportation non-profits and organizations with a transportation purpose. LTAP Enables many practitioners who need courses with professional development hours (PDHs) to earn credits for maintaining their licenses and certificates.

Anyone can register at www.gis.penndot.gov/LTAP or by contacting Hannah Milagio at hmilagio@lvpc.org or 610-264-4544

PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach Hybrid Meeting

March 27, 2025 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

PennDOT District 5 Office

1002 Hamilton Street, Allentown PA 18101

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9087370590033476183>

Grant Opportunities

2025-2026 Pennsylvania WalkWorks Active Transportation Planning Program Grant

Grants and technical assistance will be offered to a limited number of municipalities and planning organizations to assist with the development of Active Transportation Plans during the period of July 2025 through June 2026. These plans are essential to efforts to establish activity-friendly routes that connect people to everyday destinations, thereby expanding opportunities for physical activity and improving public health.

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/health/programs/healthy-living/walkworks/grant-opportunities.html>

THE MORNING CALL

Talking Business with Becky Bradley: Area transportation, housing, climate action plans in progress



By [Becky Bradley](#) | Special to The Morning Call

PUBLISHED: January 19, 2025 at 8:30 AM EST

With 2024 in the rearview, 2025 looks exciting — and daunting

Every new year brings new ideas, new opportunities and new challenges, and as I look at what the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has scheduled for 2025, I'm filled with excitement. I'm also anxious because our region's needs are great and growing and this underscores the need to work efficiently together.

We'll be tackling, along with our many partners, including you, more than a dozen major projects including creating a new transportation safety plan, analyzing where the gaps are in our trail network, installing a new electronic plan-filing system, upgrading the LVPC website, devising a new regional population and employment forecast and helping 19 municipalities work together in multi-municipal plans that will enable them to better manage development.

All exciting. All important. But I'm especially excited about these five projects that will have major impacts on the transportation network, environment and housing market in our communities:

- **Route 22 Mobility, Safety and Congestion Plan** – Thanks to a \$1 million grant secured through state Sen. Nick Miller, D-Lehigh, and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Secretary Michael Carroll, this plan will provide a phased and prioritized strategy for the 23-mile stretch of Route 22 from the Interstate 78 split in Upper Macungie Township to the New Jersey/Easton border. The recommendations will address safety, capacity and congestion issues, while providing alternatives for line-painting designed to handle autonomous vehicles, where to place alternative fuels stations and truck parking, high occupancy vehicle lanes and other techniques to make the road more efficient. It will also include significant green infrastructure priorities to help improve air quality and reduce stormwater runoff. The plan should be underway this summer and completed by the summer of 2026.
- **Bus Rapid Transit** – We will soon commit more resources than ever into advancing the enhanced bus service offered by the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority. It already has an express bus service that comes as frequently as every 30 minutes on routes through Whitehall, Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton. These new investments will help increase frequency, as well as bring physical changes along the routes to improve pedestrian safety and amenities, while getting the buses through the region more quickly. Giving people a more efficient way to work, school, shops and recreation is key to providing a truly accessible transportation network. Though these will be gradual changes, they are important steps in a future that could evolve into a light rail system with buses or maybe even train cars.
- **Regional Watershed Management Plan** – Stormwater management is one of those things most people don't think about, until it fails, and you end up with flooding, property damage and polluted waterways. The Lehigh Valley has 15 watersheds, each with separate watershed management plans. The problem is some of them date to the 1980s, and as a rapidly growing region, there has been a lot of development and weather changes in the last three-plus decades. Updating each watershed plan separately could take two decades, so the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is allowing us to take the never-before-done approach of updating them all at once, as a single watershed plan. The two-year process is already underway and will continue in earnest through 2025 and 2026.
- **Climate Action** – The LVPC's been at the forefront of climate action since it produced its ground-breaking Climate + Energy Element in 2014, but a \$1 million federal grant from the Inflation Reduction Act is helping us lean hard into a much more sustainable future. The Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan for Transportation Decarbonization

and the Greater Lehigh Valley Greenhouse Gas Inventory Plan, produced into 2024, will serve as a basis for a first-ever Greater Lehigh Valley Regional Climate Action Plan that will set goals and give practical recommendations of how the region can cut its carbon emissions in the coming decades. The RCAP will be delivered this summer.

- **Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy** – The Lehigh Valley is in the throes of a nearly 9,000-unit housing shortage that is making it difficult to find housing and pricing families out of their own neighborhoods. Developing a strategy to increase supply, determine what type of homes should be built, where they can be built and at what price points may be the single-most important thing we do this year. We're partnering with Lehigh County and the Urban Land Institute to develop a plan based not only on the data we collect, but the feedback we get from homeowners, developers, bankers, community leaders, school districts and municipal officials.

Every one of these plans has a chance to have a tremendous impact on our community and any one of them alone would make for a frenetic coming year. But put them all into the next 12 to 24 months and it can feel rather daunting. But nothing truly impactful comes easy. Remember if it was easy, it would be done already. Our specialty is building and maintaining collaborations and partnerships to build consensus and progress avoiding and resolving complex issues. That's why we are focusing on the practical, difficult needs of today and what we can predict we will need to do for tomorrow. We'll approach all of these the way we do everything – with fact-based optimism – and we'll find opportunity in every obstacle, purpose for every action and diligence in the pursuit of all solutions. Cheers for a brilliant 2025, when we'll address some of the most pressing issues the region faces, along with you. Together, there is nothing we can't do.

Becky Bradley is executive director of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. She can be reached at planning@lvpc.org.